

DADAAB REFUGEE CAMPS, KENYA

UNHCR BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

16 - 31 January 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Hollywood Actor Ger Duany returns to Dadaab camps

Ger Duany visited Dadaab's Ifo and Ifo 2 camps on 23rd January. This was his first return to the camps since he was resettled 22 years ago. The Hollywood actor and model visited fellow South Sudanese in his former neighborhood in Ifo camp and a group of newly arrived refugees in Ifo 2 camp. He also met youth of mixed nationalities, exchanged ideas about arts and movie making with them and shared his story.

Last year, Ger Duany visited Kakuma Refugee with UNHCR, looking to reunite with his long lost family. He is currently starring in the movie 'The Good Lie'.



Photos UNHCR Dadaab



Ger Duany meeting youth in Ifo camp and visiting a family Ifo 2 camp

Fire Outbreak and Containment

On 22nd January, a fire was contained by residents of Hagadera camp and by Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) fire truck after having destroyed 19 houses. No casualties were reported.

Photo UNHCR Dadaab



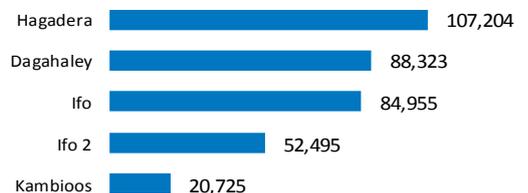
Hagadera section D 3 after the fire

A KRCS Fire Response Unit was established in September 2014 with UNHCR's support. Dadaab camps have in the past experienced fires that resulted in destruction of property especially in markets and residential areas. The unit is composed of one fire station officer, 35 fire wardens and a fully equipped fire truck engine. It seeks to ensure that all fire emergency cases in the camps are responded to in a timely manner.

UPDATES

Population as of 31 January 2015: **353,702**

Refugees: 350,195
Asylum seekers: 3,507



Protection Counselling

- Nearly 300 individuals across the five Dadaab camps benefited from UNHCR's protection counselling during the second half of January. The services provided included Refugee Status Determination (RSD) inquiries, family reunification, requests for relocation to Kakuma refugee camp, physical safety and legal support for Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and child protection.

Continuous Registration

- The fast-tracked registration of new borns that commenced on 5th January ended on 22nd January. In all five Dadaab camps, 1,336 babies were registered between 16th and 31st January.

Access to Legal Assistance/Justice

- The Judicial Kadhi's Court which deals with cases on personal law involving litigants who profess the Muslim faith was held from 19th to 23rd January. With the facilitation of transport by UNHCR, the Kadhi attended cases in Dadaab town as well as Ifo, Ifo 2 and Hagadera camps. He was consulted on issues regarding inheritance, marriage and divorce.
- The Mobile Court held sessions between 26th and 30th January in which 15 cases were adjudicated. Ten cases were SGBV related and five concerned immigration. The Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) was funded by UNHCR to offer legal interventions to refugees in court where necessary.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

- UNHCR in collaboration with International Rescue Committee (IRC) organized a workshop to discuss the preliminary findings from the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Research. Violence against women and girls perpetrated by their intimate partners is a global phenomenon and prevalence is likely to be even higher in humanitarian settings.

Photo UNHCR Dadaab



Girl and baby in Ifo 2 Camp

The data collection carried out in Dadaab in 2014 built on previous studies conducted in other locations. The research results add to the growing evidence base on scope and severity of IPV in humanitarian settings.

The IPV Research showed that effective ways of addressing IPV were engagement of men and boys, establishment of coordinated response to gender based violence across health, psychosocial and legal protection interventions, including the provision of immediate safety options. In addition to strengthened livelihood opportunities, provision of family level interventions are considered pertinent to curtail Intimate Partner Violence.

The participants of the workshop were drawn from the SGBV Inter-Agency Working Group. It is envisaged that the recommendations will improve protection interventions in Dadaab refugee operations.

Health

- More than 80 clinical staff, community health workers and teachers participated in training sessions on Child Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. In preparation of the training, a UNHCR consultant had visited partner agencies across the five camps and assessed their activities and needs. She then tailored the training according to the staff's needs. Community health workers and psychosocial counsellors are few in the region and most have very basic knowledge and skills in handling mental health challenges.
- UNHCR provided 200 adjustable glasses to a camp based eye clinic. The glasses will be distributed to patients in need.

Food Security and Nutrition

- With support from UNHCR, Action Against Hunger (ACF) held a two day workshop on 'Communication for Development' (C4D). The participants reviewed the draft Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) strategy, shared lessons learnt in the C4D process and developed an action plan for the finalization of the strategy. The workshop was attended by staff from health and nutrition partners and from local radio stations.
- During the third week of January, pretesting of radio spots with key nutrition messages was conducted in Ifo, Hagadera, Kambioos and Ifo 2 camps with support from UNHCR's nutrition partners across the four camps. The finalized radio spots will be aired in the local stations in February and March.



Photo UNHCR Dadaab

WFP school feeding in Kambioos camp

Water and Sanitation

- A solar project in borehole 2 in Ifo camp was commissioned on 23rd January. The new solar-diesel hybrid system ensures that solar energy is utilized in pumping water from the borehole while a generator complements any additional energy when the solar power goes down. The project was funded by Norwegian Emergency Preparedness System (NOREPS).

Photo UNHCR Dadaab



Visitors and UNHCR staff after the commissioning of the solar-diesel hybrid system in Ifo camp

- On 22nd January, UNHCR and refugee leaders of Dagahaley camp jointly conducted water distribution monitoring in Dagahaley. The objective of the visit was to check on tap stands and to receive feedback from beneficiaries on issues related to water fetching. UNHCR then discussed with its WASH partners how to improve access to water across the camp.
- KRCS installed solar panels on two boreholes in Ifo 2 camp with funding from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO).

Shelter and Site Planning

- UNHCR constructed a perimeter fence around the Kenya Police Station in Ifo camp. Administration Police and Kenya Police are based in all five Dadaab camp and have improved camp security and strengthened community policing initiatives. As police stations and vehicles have been targeted in past, the Kenya police station was in need of enhanced facilities. It is the oldest police station in the five camps.
- A total of 19 new rub halls are under construction in Ifo 2 camp. The current storage space for Non Food Items (NFIs) and other items is inadequate. The new rub halls will provide sufficient space for items for new arrivals and support to voluntary return movements.
- In order to improve access to legal assistance for refugees and host community, UNHCR is planning to build a permanent court facility. A wall fence is under construction to secure the site and a water supply system is being prepared. Until the court building is finished, UNHCR continues to support mobile courts in the Dadaab camps.



New fence around Ifo police station

Photo UNHCR Dadaab

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance



Production of positioning aids for children with disabilities

Photo Handicap International, Dadaab

- Handicap International (HI) continues to build capacity of refugees on production of assistive devices such as crutches, toilet seats and positioning aids. The HI Technical Aid Workshop uses locally available materials such as wood and also repairs wheelchairs, tricycles and other mobility devices
- UNHCR in partnership with National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCK) have launched Peace Education initiative. The campaign will be conducted in collaboration with UNICEF.
- A large market stall is under construction in Kambioos camp and will be part of the new market area. The roofed stall has 40 spaces and is meant for the most vulnerable refugees. Further plots have been demarcated in which refugees and host community members will set up their own stalls and workshops. UNHCR also intends to establish a water supply system with taps and fire hydrants. The market is planned to have wide roads to avoid fires that are common in congested markets in the older camps.

In 2014, UNHCR and Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) carried out an assessment on livelihood services in Kambioos camp and noted the need for a market.

Currently, there are only few shops in Kambioos camp and refugees travel over 6km to Hagadera camp to buy essential commodities.



One of the few shop owners in Kambioos camp

Photo UNHCR Dadaab

Resettlement

- 300 individuals (79 households) underwent interviews to verify family composition. 81 individuals (25 households) were interviewed for Resettlement Registration Forms (RRF) processing and possible submission to resettlement countries. Weekly resettlement case status feedback and counselling was provided to 100 individuals in Ifo, Dagahaley and Hagadera camps.
- During the second half of January, 54 individuals departed Dadaab for onward resettlement to USA, UK, Australia and Sweden.

Voluntary Return to Somalia

- UNHCR, Government of Kenya and partners have supported 1,274 refugees to return home from Kenya to Somalia under the current voluntary return pilot project. The first group of refugees travelled to Somalia from Dadaab refugee camps on 8 December 2014, when the pilot project was launched. Refugees use pre-arranged bus transport. 11 convoys have departed since then. The Kenya Police Service provides security to ensure a safe and secure journey.
- More than 80% of the returnees are refugees who arrived in Kenya after 2010. All of them have returned either to Baidoa or Kismayo. Most returning refugees are in family groups with children.
- All returnees have reached their final destination in safety and dignity. There are no reports of security incidents affecting the returnees or return to a situation of internal displacement.
- Integrated Return Help Desks, comprising UNHCR, Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), have been established in all Dadaab camps. The UNHCR Return Help Desk provides refugees with return related information, counselling on the right to return, helps them to make an informed decision about return and verifies the voluntary nature of the return. This is also where refugees complete the Voluntary Return Form once they have made the decision to return. UNHCR generates the government of Kenya Movement Pass which facilitates unhindered travel to Somalia. The NRC Return Help Desk provides refugees with country of origin information relevant to conditions in designated return areas, including available assistance and services. The DRA Return Help Desk issues government of Kenya movement passes and gives final clearance to refugees to depart
- Pre-departure health screening is undertaken by Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), Islamic Relief Kenya (IRK) and International Rescue Committee (IRC).
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) distributes unconditional cash grants while core relief items and hygiene kits are distributed by NRC. NRC also provides initial mine risk education. The World Food Programme (WFP) provides high energy biscuits to departing refugees to consume during the journey home.
- Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), with funding from UNHCR, provides an independent and objective monitoring of the return process in Kenya. International Organisation of Migration (IOM) and UNHCR established a transit center in Somalia in which returnees are received.



Photos UNHCR Dadaab



Families get ready for the bus to Somalia

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Web portal on Somali Displacement:
<http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/regional.php>

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